

Practitioner's Docket No.: 013176.0403PTUS (Formerly 13176.403)

Image 2814
Patent Application

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of: Solayappan et al.

Group Art Unit: 2814

Serial No.: 09/998,469

Examiner: Peralta, Ginette

Filed: November 29, 2001

For: BARRIER LAYERS FOR PROTECTING METAL OXIDES FROM HYDROGEN
DEGRADATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is directed to the cited references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B. The cited references are believed to be the most relevant known to Applicants and/or Assignee at this time concerning the invention as claimed in the above-captioned patent application. No representation is made or intended that more relevant information does not exist or that the order of presentation of the information in any way reflects their relative pertinence.

Applicants respectfully request that each of the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and that the cited references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. A copy of each reference is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Action or Notice of Allowance. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d).

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1). Thus, it is believed that no fee is required. However, if necessary, please charge any deficient fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1848.

Respectfully submitted,
PATTON BOGGS LLP

Date: 1/28/04

By: [Signature]

Carl A. Forest

Customer No. 24283

Registration No. 28,494

Tel. No.: 303-894-6114

Fax No.: 303-894-9239

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: January 29, 2004

Elaine C. VonSpreckelsen

[Signature]
Signature



PTO/SB/08a (05-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/998469
Filing Date	29-Nov-2001
First Named Inventor	Narayan Solayappan
Art Unit	2814
Examiner Name	Peralta, Ginette
Attorney Docket Number	013176.0403PTUS (Formerly 13176.403)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
	1	US- 6,121,648	09-19-2000	Joseph T. Evans, Jr.	
	2	US- 2001/0006241 A1	07-05-2001	Bee-Lyong Yang	
	3	US- 2001/0034106 A1	10-25-2001	Moise et al.	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

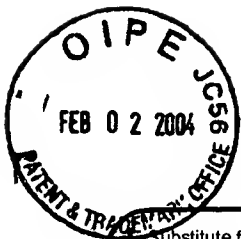
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	4	EP 0 412 185 A1	02-13-1991	Dr. Josef Willer		
	5	JP 11121704	04-30-1999	Watabe Koji		
	6	EP 0 915 522 A2	05-12-1999	Kazushi Amanuma		
	7	EP 1 113 493 A1	07-04-2001	Dehm et al.		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



PTO/SB/08b(05-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2

of 2

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/998469
Filing Date	29-Nov-2001
First Named Inventor	Narayan Solayappan
Group Art Unit	2814
Examiner Name	Peralta, Ginette
Attorney Docket Number	013176.0403PTUS (Formerly 13176.403)

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	8	GODA ET AL., "A Novel Surface-Oxidized Barrier-SIN Cell Technology to Improve Endurance and Read-Disturb Characteristics for Gigabit NAND Flash Memories", IEEE, 2000, pp. 33.3.1 - 33.3.4	

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.